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Committee for Programme and Coordination
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Agenda item 8
Adoption of the report of the Committee on its forty-sixth session

Draft report

Rapporteur: Mr. Valery **Zhdanovich** (Belarus)

Addendum

Proposed strategic framework for the period 2008-2009

(Item 3(b))

Programme 21
Palestine refugees

1. At its 17th meeting, on 28 August 2006, the Committee for Programme and Coordination considered programme 21, Palestine refugees, of the proposed biennial programme plan (A/61/6 (Prog. 21)).

2. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced the programme and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the programme.

Discussion

3. Appreciation was expressed for the programme and the work of the United Nations Relief Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA). The importance of the peaceful resolution of the Palestinian issue and the settlement of the Middle East question were expressed.

4. Clarification was sought on some indicators of achievement under subprogrammes 1 and 2. The Committee was informed that the World Health Organization (WHO) had conducted an external review of the UNRWA health programme and commended both its efficiency and effectiveness.

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5. Clarification was sought on the coordination of UNRWA activities among the various capitals in the region. It was informed that increasing use of videoconferencing for meetings and a decentralized approach to field operations had ensured continuity of operations and coordination between UNRWA field offices.

6. While noting the partnership between UNRWA and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and WHO, a question was raised concerning partnership with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the World Food Programme, and the role of regional organizations. Concern was expressed on the funding situation of UNRWA.

Conclusions and recommendations

7. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of programme 21, Palestine refugees, of the proposed biennial programme plan, subject to the following modifications:**

Overview orientation

Paragraph 21.1

Add the following new paragraph after paragraph 21.1 and number subsequent paragraphs accordingly:

"21.2 UNRWA reports directly to the General Assembly. Overall review of UNRWA programmes and activities is undertaken by the 23-member Advisory Commission, which includes representatives of the Agency's major donors and host Governments. In its resolution 3331 B (XXIX) of 17 December 1974, the General Assembly decided that, with effect from 1 January 1975, the expenses relating to the emoluments of international staff in the service of UNRWA, which would otherwise have been charged to voluntary contributions, should be financed by the regular budget of the United Nations for the duration of the Agency's mandate."

Paragraph 21.6

At the end of the paragraph, add the following two sentences:

"In each subprogramme area, including general education and technical and vocational training, maternal and child health care and disease prevention, poverty eradication and microfinance, the Agency has sought to achieve programme results consistent with the targets and commitments established by the United Nations system, such as the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration and the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and international agreements since 1992. UNRWA will continue, in its five areas of operation, to maintain its efforts to achieve this consistency throughout 2008-2009, including in the areas of educational services, health services, relief and social services and income-generating programmes, and will continue to undertake projects to improve infrastructure and socio-economic conditions."

Subprogramme 1
Education

Objective of the Organization

Replace the word "enhance" with the word "improve".

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

After accomplishment (a), add the following two accomplishments:

"(b) Adapted and improved course content and curricula in both the general and technical education programmes to match developments in host countries"

"(c) Adapted and improved course content and curricula in vocational training institutions to meet changing market conditions"

Indicators of achievement

After indicator (a), add the following indicators:

"(b) Percentage of the curricula adapted or improved relative to the total number of modifications required"

"(c) Percentage of the curricula adapted or improved relative to the total number of modifications required"

Subprogramme 2
Health

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

In accomplishment (c), replace the word "Enhanced" with the word "Improved"

After accomplishment (e), add the following accomplishment:

"(f) Reduction of psychological trauma resulting from years of insecurity and chronic violence"

Indicators of achievement

At the end of indicator (c) (ii), add the words "including potable water"

After indicator (e), add the following indicator:

"(f) Increased assistance to persons suffering from mental trauma".